CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A dental matrix wedge restorative apparatus applied to a class II preparation in a position between a tooth for restoring and a further tooth adjacent tooth to the tooth for restoring, the apparatus comprising: a lingual retainer providing a first engagement means; a buccal retainer providing a second engagement means; the first and second engagement means enabled for mutual engagement in drawing the lingual and buccal retainers together within an interproximal space; each of the lingual and buccal retainers providing a resilient and flexible wing extending laterally therefrom and positioned for fully covering a missing tooth sidewall in a class II preparation site on a tooth, for establishing a tooth sidewall boundary when the lingual and buccal retainers are fully engaged.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a means for tensioning, the tensioning means positioned for applying engagement pressure to the retainers.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the tensioning means is a BiTine ring.

4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the tensioning means is a series of engaging counterparts within the retainers.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a triangular-shaped flexible wedge adapted by size for tight fitting at the marginal ridge between the tooth for restoring and the further tooth adjacent thereto, the flexible wedge of such ductility as to take the shape of the marginal ridge of the tooth for restoring for controlling the shape of the restorative material in the tooth for restoring.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 whereby one of the gripping means comprises a protrusion extending outwardly from one of the retainers, and the other of the gripping means comprises an aperture for accepting insertion of the protrusion.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 whereby one of the gripping means further comprises a series of teeth adapted in shape for insertion of the protrusion into the aperture and further adapted for

resistance to withdrawal of the protrusion from the aperture such that the retainers may be drawn together but not apart.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a matrix strip providing a marginal ridge area, a contact area and a gingival margin area, the three areas formed contiguously in a generally convex shape adapted by size and conformation for enclosing one side of a tooth surface.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the marginal ridge area and the contact area of the matrix strip have a lesser thickness than the gingival margin area.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the retainers, when drawn tightly together against the matrix strip are enabled by size, shape, flexibility, position and placement as to maintain the convex shape of the matrix strip during tooth restoration.

11. A method of establishing a retainer for tooth restoration using a matrix wedge restorative combination, between a tooth for restoring and an adjacent tooth thereto, comprising the steps of: providing a flexible and non-self supporting matrix strip, a lingual retainer and a buccal retainer; adapting the matrix strip for fitting between a pair of adjacent teeth; pressing one of the retainers between the adjacent teeth from a lingual side thereof; pressing the other of the retainers between the adjacent teeth from the buccal side thereof; engaging the two retainers so as to clamp the retainers against the teeth; conforming the shape of the retainers to the shape of the teeth; and conforming the matrix strip to the shape of the teeth by compression of the retainers thereagainst.

12. The method of claim 11 whereby the engaging of the two retainers comprises insertion of a protrusion extending outwardly from one of the retainers, into an aperture of the other of the retainers.

13. The method of claim 12 whereby the insertion of the protrusion includes gripping a series of internal teeth adapted in shape for insertion of the protrusion into the aperture and further adapted for resistance to withdrawal of the protrusion from the aperture such that the retainers may be drawn together but not apart.

14. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of inserting a triangular-shaped flexible wedge tight fittingly into the marginal ridge between the tooth for restoring and the further tooth adjacent thereto, pressing the flexible wedge into the marginal ridge with an

opposing tooth so as to form surface approximating the marginal ridge of the tooth for restoring thereby controlling the shape of a restorative material in the tooth for restoring.